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FLOOR DEBATE

February 24, 2005 LB 71A, 71

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I thank you for the discussion that we've held this morning on LB 71. This is a reenactment of a former bill that was passed in 2000, and that was a very successful and beneficial act to Nebraskans, particularly those in rural areas. It did help to enhance opportunities for small business enterprises, and also those in rural communities. It encouraged partnerships, networks, and cooperative efforts for promotion of value-added activities. There's been a lot of discussion about the appropriation. We did remove that intent in the bill. And we know that we do have certain priorities, but I would ask that you would help support this bill, and we'll talk about the A bill in a few minutes. There is also a match required in the grants that would be awarded. And, as was pointed out, the two years that this program was in operation,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...the \$1 million was totally spent, which meant that there was a great deal of interest in the program, and also a great deal of success. So this bill would sunset in 2009. It will be managed by the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Agriculture, so it will be a joint venture. I believe that this bill will be an important bill for all Nebraskans, not only those in rural communities. So I would ask for your support. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. All members are present or accounted for. The question before the body is, shall LB 71 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. Have you all voted on the question who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 71.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 71 does advance. Mr. Clerk. We do raise the call. Mr. Clerk, LB 71A.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 71A, a bill by Senator Stuhr. (Read title.)